



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**November 12, 2008**

**Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hochman called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee members present: Chair Hochman, Lee Moldaver, Roger Schlueter, Daniel Wilson

Committee members absent: Michael Jordan, George Weber

Liaison members present: Park and Recreation Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

Liaison members absent: Councilmember Iya Falcone, Planning Commissioner John Jostes

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Water Resources Specialist Jill Murray, Creeks Program Assistant Liz Smith

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Schlueter to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 15, 2008.

Vote:

Unanimous Voice Vote.

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one wished to speak.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Benson reported that the City's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) was approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) as of Wednesday,

November 5. Additional required adjustments are to be turned in to the Board by January 5, 2009, and on April 1, 2010, the first annual report to the Board will be due.

Mr. Benson reported that the County of Santa Barbara discontinued beach water quality testing at the end of October due to budgetary constraints. The Creeks Division has begun weekly sampling of the four main outfalls within the City (Arroyo Burro Beach, Ledbetter Beach, East Beach at Mission Creek, and East Beach at Sycamore Creek), and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper has begun sampling other beaches in the County from Gaviota to Rincon. The City and Channelkeeper will sample through March 2009, when as of April 1 the County is required to begin sampling again. Results are published Wednesdays in the Santa Barbara Daily Sound and the Santa Barbara News-Press, as well as online at [www.sbck.org](http://www.sbck.org).

Mr. Benson reported that Creeks staff and community volunteers spent five days walking the major creeks within the City from the beach to the mountains, removing over 6,000 pounds of trash, including plastic, glass, mattresses, and televisions. Mr. Benson thanked the Community Environmental Council, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council, and Creeks staff for their hard work, as well as Marborg Industries for providing free dumpsters for the clean-up effort.

Committee members asked questions regarding expected completion of the Laguna Creek Fence at Yanonali; and, whether the Board offered comments on the SWMP.

Mr. Benson reported that the fence is nearly done, and was delayed by the need to manufacture additional parts to meet CalTrans specifications; and, that the Board requested specific changes to the SWMP, and overall comments from the Board have been positive.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **9a. Water Quality Monitoring and Research Program Fiscal Year 2008 Report**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the results from the Water Quality and Monitoring Fiscal Year 2008 Report.

Documents:

Staff Report – November 2008

Power Point Presentation – November 2008

Speakers:

Jill Murray, Creeks Water Resources Specialist

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding toxicity and sediment testing; whether other communities are conducting similar studies that could take the place of using Measure B funds on local research; when staff will use information provided by Dr. Holden at UCSB as part of the Microbial Source Tracking Study; and, whether beach water quality testing is able to differentiate between bacteria from human or animal waste.

Ms. Murray reported that toxicity testing is done quarterly, and sediment testing is done yearly at the end of the summer; that staff has obtained Prop 84 funding to work with UCSB, and that it's advantageous to partner with an academic researcher who uses our geographic area for their research, but that staff is also up to date on related studies taking place elsewhere; that Dr. Holden's results have led to strategic decisions by staff to focus on health risks related to human waste, and that results have affected the design of the Laguna Watershed Study; and, that standard tests that beach warnings are based on do not differentiate between human and animal waste, and that total coliform, enterococcus, and e. coli are present in the waste of all warm blooded animals and some cold blooded animals.

Public comment:

Ms. Kira Redmond of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper expressed concern about the motivation for studying alternative sources of bacteria causing beach warnings, and stated that there is a correlation between indicator bacteria and human health risks.

Committee Discussion:

Ms. Murray reported that staff wants to provide the best information on protecting human health, and focus the approach on eliminating specific problems rather than taking a wide approach.

Committee members asked questions regarding the success of the Bohnett Park restoration and indicator bacteria levels downstream of the project.

Ms. Murray reported that the SURF facility eliminates bacteria before the creek enters Bohnett Park, but that by the Anapamu Street bridge, bacteria levels are back to the levels before the project, which is typical of ultraviolet treatment projects.

**9b. Fiscal Year 2008 Year End Budget Report**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation on the Fiscal year 2008 year end budget report.

Documents:

Staff Report – November 2008  
Power Point Presentation – November 2008

Speakers:

Cameron Benson, Creeks Division Manager

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding the ability to leverage Measure B funds to obtain grants in the current economic situation; whether the Creeks Division is involved in the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project; and, whether the Enforcement Program could generate enough revenue to pay Enforcement staff salary.

Mr. Benson reported that in the short term there is still a significant amount of grant funding available, particularly for endangered species recover, that staff is working collaboratively with local organizations to obtain grant funding, and noted that the Creeks Division has obtained nearly \$900,000 in grant funding during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2009; that the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project is being managed by the County Flood Control District working with City Public Works, but that Creeks staff and Creeks Advisory Committee members have had some oversight of the design; and, that the Enforcement Program's main focus is educating the public, and that the number of enforcement calls fluctuates dramatically day to day.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Schlueter to adjourn.

Chair Hochman adjourned the meeting at 6:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson  
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager